

Disability Awareness
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14-year-old student

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READING Paul Shaw's letter in the Athens News a few weeks ago, I came to understand how difficult it must be to be a disabled person.

Firstly, I have to say that when I read the article, Mr Shaw's excellent description of his daily activities made me feel like a silly and insensitive person. I realised how vast my ignorance was! As Mr Shaw points out, all we need is an eye-opening education geared towards understanding disabled people's situation and what we could do to help them. When in his letter he talks about his daily activities, I must say I'm impressed and I wonder how he survives.

Mr Shaw, you said you really love this city [Thessaloniki]. Here are your best friends who help you and care about you and I'm sure you are grateful to them. There are lots of disabled people who have no friends or family, and we have to help them whenever they need us.

Thessaloniki is known for its friendly citizens but this in my opinion is not enough. One can tell that a lot of people simply don't think enough about people in wheelchairs when they, for instance, make it difficult for them to get around by parking their cars at ramps. I'm very embarrassed to admit that before I had read Mr Shaw's beautiful article I myself used to be an insensitive person who didn't care about disabled people. In my opinion, the country must provide some sort of education about this problem to schoolchildren because only this way can we hope to have sensitive and conscientious citizens in the future.